(b) whether the State Government have forwarded any proposals/ estimates in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of the action taken by Government on the said plans/ works of the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (d) Development and promotion of tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/U.T. Administrations. Ministry of Tourism Government of India, extends financial assistance to the State Governments/UTs for tourist related projects which are identified in consultation with the State concerned every year for providing financial assistance under the scheme integrated Development of Tourism Circuits, Product/Infrastructure and Destination and Large Revenue Generating Projects.

Lucknow-Dudhwa-Katarniaghat Tourist Circuit has been identified for providing financial assistance during the current financial year but not proposal has been received from the State Government. Project proposals that are complete in all respect are approved on the basis of inter-se priority and funds are released subject to availability under the respective head.

Development of Buddhist Circuit in Orissa

2321. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Government of Orissa has drawn up an ambitious project to develop the Buddhist circuit in the State to attract tourists;

(b) whether the State Government has asked for some help from the Centre to achieve the objective; and

(c) if so, the details thereof with an action plan of the Centre to help the State to exploit the potential in tourism industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Development and promotion of tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/U.T. Administrations. The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, extends financial assistance for the tourism-related projects which are identified in consultation with the State concerned every year for providing financial assistance under the schemes Integrated Development of Tourist Circuits, Product/ Infrastructure and Destination Development and Assistance for Large Revenue Generating Projects.

The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, has sanctioned a project for Integrated Development of Buddhist Circuit in Orissa to develop tourist facilities at Lalitgiri,, Ratnagiri, Udaigiri and Langudi for an amount of Rs. 740.67 lakh during the year 2004-05 under the Integrated Development of Tourism Circuits Scheme.

Development of Yatradham Somnath

†2322. SHRI JAYANTILAL BAROT:
SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal for the development of Yatradham Somnath; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) Development and promotion of tourist places/spots is primarily undertaken by the State Governments/UT Administrations themselves. However, Ministry of Tourism provides central financial assistance on the basis of project proposals prioritized every year in consultation with them. A project for development of area around Somnath Temple has been sanctioned for Rs. 548.81 lakhs during 2003-04.

Cultural and religious Fairs in Uttaranchal

†2323. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Uttaranchal conducts a

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.